Graphs in Excel

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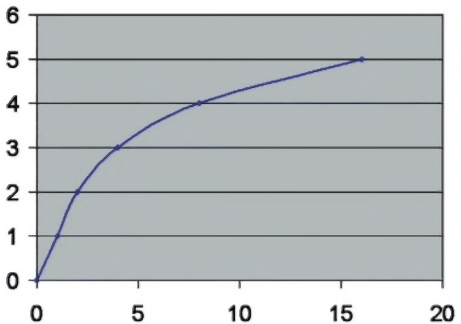
Drawing nice-looking graphs requires both feeling and skill. In the past, this was taught at school using grid paper, but these days anyone can grab a computer and even a steady hand is no longer a requirement. But which program lends itself best for the drawing of graphs? The familiar Microsoft Excel, which is installed on practically any computer nowadays works quite well: simply enter a table of numbers, choose the desired type of graph and voilà, a beautiful graph, which can be pasted into a document or printed!

On certain occasions however, you will be disappointed. This is because Excel assumes that all the intervals are equal, and this is not the case with many measurements. Selecting the 'scatter' type of graph can solve this problem; this version of the graph is able to deal with irregular intervals, as is illustrated by the accompanying picture. (000168-1)